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OUTGOING MESSAGE

25X1

25X1 SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE	COI	ACP	TOG	TPE	MRO	TRI
SCM 0	0	0	0	0	0	

DATE-TIME GROUP: CIA/OCI / CITE: WHIZ 740412 MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/NMSS

25X1 SOURCE REF:

ROUTING

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INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 4 DATE: 12 APRIL 74

SUBJECT: ALLEGED LIBERIAN INTENTIONS TO NATIONALIZE RUBBER INDUSTRY

25X1A2G

REF :

25X1C LIBERIAN PRESIDENT TOLBERT VISITED ALGERIA FROM MARCH 27-28 AND DISCUSSED WITH ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE THE POSSIBILITIES OF NATIONALIZING FOREIGN RUBBER PRODUCERS IN LIBERIA AND CALLING A CONFERENCE TO SET UP A RUBBER PRODUCERS' ORGANIZATION. BOUMEDIENE IS SAID TO HAVE PROMISED LIBERIA LIMITED FINANCIAL AID TO OVERCOME ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES THAT NATIONALIZATION MIGHT CAUSE.

2 THE LIBERIANS MAY ASPIRE TO TAKE EVENTUAL CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY'S US-DOMINATED RUBBER PRODUCING INDUSTRY, BUT THERE ARE

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CLASSIFICATION

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DATE-TIME GROUP: CJ A/CC JUNIE 17494

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NO OTHER INDICATIONS THAT THE MODERATE TOLBERT REGIME MAY BE CONTEMPLATING A TAKEOVER AT THIS TIME. OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS THE REGIME HAS RENEGOTIATED IN AMICABLE FASHION SOME OF LIBERIA'S CONCESSION AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN MINING AND TIMBER INTERESTS TO ASSURE THE GOVERNMENT A MORE EQUITABLE SHARE OF PROFITS--USUALLY 50%. FIRESTONE, HOLDER OF THE LARGEST RUBBER CONCESSION, IS PRESENTLY RENEGOTIATING ITS AGREEMENT AND THE COMAPNY HAS REPORTED NO UNREASONABLE DEMANDS BY THE LIBERIANS. SINCE SUCCEEDING TO THE PRESIDENCY IN 1971, TOLBERT HAS FREQUENTLY REITERATED HIS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN LIBERIA'S LIBERAL INVESTMENT POLICY AND SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US.

TOLBERT'S VISIT TO ALGERIA WAS THE FIRST LEG OF A TRIP THAT TOOK HIM TO LIBYA AND SAUDI ARABIA IN A FUTILE QUEST FOR ARAB OIL AT PREFERENTIAL PRICES. TOLBERT, AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE NONALIGNED CONFERENCE WAS ALSO IN ALGIERS TO TOUCH BASE WITH BOUMEDIENE IN ADVANCE OF THE UN SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION THAT BOTH LEADERS ADDRESSED. TOLBERT SPOKE AT THE UN FOR COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS OF RAW MATERIALS

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CLASSIFICATION

[redacted]

DATE-TIME GROUP

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WHILE BOUMEDIENE REITERATED HIS CALL FOR RAW MATERIALS EXPORTERS TO TAKE CONTROL OF PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND PRICING.

IN ALGIERS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LIBERIAN CONTROL OF RUBBER INTERESTS WAS BROUGHT UP BY BOUMEDIENE WHO MAY HAVE SUGGESTED NATIONALIZATION AS A COUNTER TO A PROBABLE SIBERIAN REQUEST FOR PREFERENTIAL OIL PRICES AND OFFERED VAGUE FINANCIAL ASSURANCES TO ENCOURAGE SUCH A MOVE. THE LIBERIANS NO DOUBT WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO A RUBBER PRODUCERS' ORGANIZATION, BUT AGAIN THERE ARE NO SIGNS THAT TOLBERT HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH OTHER RUBBER PRODUCING COUNTRIES. E-2 IMPDET.

(SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: NEA DIV AND NIO [redacted]

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